

## OCCIDENTAL MEDICAL TIMES ON THE EXISTENCE OF PLAGUE IN SAN FRANCISCO

The current number of the Occidental Medical Times has an exhaustive article upon the plague situation, entitled "The Plague and the Pacific Medical Journal," in which it defends its position and attacks the position taken by the latter journal, which is edited by Dr. Winslow Anderson in the interest, so far as plague matters are concerned, of the commercial view of the situation taken by Governor Gage and the San Francisco newspapers. The article says in part:

It has always been the aim and endeavor of the Medical Times to avoid personalities and therefore personal criticism, which could be construed as such. This rule would remain inviolate in the present case were the matter one of mere personal concern, but the question is of far greater magnitude and of such far-reaching consequences that we have no alternative but to reopen it. We would have avoided the course, despite our contemporary's scurrilous abuse of this journal and its persistent and mendacious calumny of many reputable physicians, had not the occurrence of five fresh cases of plague, on the 5th, 10th, 14th of October and November 2d, rendered it imperative to again point the great danger that threatens our city and its manifold interests. In discussing this matter with the Pacific Medical Journal it will be impossible to separate them from the personality of its responsible editor and proprietor. Dr. Winslow Anderson, as that gentleman has made himself mainly responsible for the present situation.

The situation in brief is this: The Governor of the State of California, urged by the business and medical interests of San Francisco and also by the politicians, upon whom similar pressure had been brought to bear, has undertaken, with the assistance of the State Board of Health, to suppress every fact in connection with the existence of plague in San Francisco. This, then, is no longer a municipal or a State question. It is a national and an international question. It is a crime against civilization. It is an outrageous piece of selfishness on the part of our metropolis, in which the interests of the State and of the Nation are wholly disregarded.

We had hoped that our issue of July was sufficient to convince any national being that bubonic plague existed in our midst. In support of this view we refer our readers, amongst other communications, to editorials in the following journals: Journal American Medical Association, Philadelphia Medical Journal, Colorado Medical Journal, Modern Medical Science, Medicine, The Sanitarium, Cleveland Medical Journal, British Medical Journal. These journals had access to both sides of the controversy and formed their judgment accordingly.

The reference to the epidemic at Glasgow is poorly taken. Our contemporary must know that a majority of the cases in that epidemic have been of the pneumonic form, which as we have insisted is highly contagious and deadly. All the San Francisco cases have been of the bubonic variety; that the number has been considerably decreased; that they have occurred at longer intervals and the source of contagion is more difficult to trace. The history of the initial outbreak of that epidemic is remarkably similar to the case of the lamented Dr. Muller. Our contemporary should also remember that, even with the pneumonic form at work, only twenty-nine cases have died.

It would not be possible to furnish a more caustic comment upon our contemporary's argument than the following, which is taken from an article on "The Bubonic Plague from a Sanitary Standpoint," by Charles F. Craig, M. D., Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. A., and Pathologist and Bacteriologist to the U. S. General Hospital, Presidio, San Francisco (Pacific Medical Journal, August, 1900). With strange inconsistency this article has been permitted to appear in the very issue wherein our contemporary in unmeasured language has emptied the vials of its wrath upon us for supporting "those who have so earnestly labored to establish San Francisco as a plague-ridden city." Dr. Craig says:

"It may be said here that communities are slow to admit the presence of any epidemic disease, and this is most apt to be the case with plague. Time and again the authorities of infected cities have been criminally dilatory in admitting the presence of the plague, and hundreds of lives have been sacrificed to their criminal tenacity of the disease. The following statistics prove that plague epidemics are slow in development. In Honolulu, as quoted by Montenegro, only eight cases occurred during three months. In the great epidemic in London in 1665, the first case occurred on December 20th of the previous year, the second on February 9th, and the third and fourth on April 22d (that is, only four cases in five months), but the mortality of the London epidemic, though it began so quietly, was one of the most awful known to history. In the recent epidemic in Rosario, South America, only four cases occurred in three months. In the epidemic now raging in Sydney, Australia, only thirteen cases occurred in the first sixty days. In Honolulu, it is said on good authority, that sporadic cases of plague occurred weeks before the epidemic was formally recognized as being present. In Osaka, Japan, where plague is now epidemic, only three cases occurred during the first six weeks. Thus it will be seen that the above, which is but a small portion of the evidence which might be adduced proved the

fact that the plague is insidious in its attack and slow in development. In San Francisco eleven well authenticated cases of plague occurred within ten weeks and the smallness of the number has been used as an argument against the disease being plague, whereas, it is in reality one of the strongest arguments in its favor, for this small number is absolutely typical of the outbreak of all plague epidemics. The first few cases having remained unrecognized, and the epidemic thus having become established, the active period commences, and hundreds are attacked within a comparatively short time. This fact has been well illustrated in Bombay and Hongkong. The subsidence of a plague epidemic is generally slow, almost as slow as its development, and often an apparent disappearance of the disease is followed by a fresh outbreak, and thus it may persist for months, causing infinite apprehension and anxiety to the unfortunate inhabitants of a stricken locality."

The closing sentences of this most incredible editorial demand the serious attention of the whole profession. "Will any just, logical, unprejudiced individual make the assertion or entertain the conviction that San Francisco has ever had within its limits a case of bubonic plague? Let any honest individual weigh the facts as they are here today, and have been, and if he comes to any other conclusion than that it was impossible under the circumstances for San Francisco to have had a case of plague, we believe him to be incapable of logical reasoning and a fit subject for public care. As for the dishonest individuals, the state has no law that would do them justice."

Men of integrity are thus recklessly condemned as guilty of criminality so great that the state has no law that could do them justice. Our contemporary invites a weighing "of facts as they are here today and have been." Briefly, they are as follows: There have been identified and demonstrated twenty-one cases of bubonic plague in San Francisco, all of which have proven fatal. The first was found on the 6th of March, 1900, and the last on the 24 of November. With this issue all but three of these cases have been reported in full in the Medical Times.

The cause of death in each case has been verified by every postulate laid down by Koch, Kitasato, Yersin, Roux and Calmett of the German Plague Commission, and by at least a half dozen local and visiting physicians working independently. The diagnosis in the earlier cases has been confirmed or concurred in by the very highest authorities in America, in proof of which we offer the following: Editorials of the journals previously referred to; the testimony and results of the investigations of Dr. J. J. Kinyoun, whose findings "are at least worth the collective wisdom of all the local practitioners in San Francisco or any other city;" of the marine hospital service as voiced by Drs. Rosenau, Geddings, Kerr, Lumsden, Gassaway and Agnew Walker, of the board of health of San Francisco and its "incompetent" pathologist, Dr. Kellogg; of Professors Montgomery, Kerr, Rykogel and Taylor of the University of California; of Professor Ophulus of Cooper Medical College; of Drs. Day, Raymond, Cooper and Hoffman of Honolulu; of Dr. Charles L. Fagan, secretary of the provincial board of health of British Columbia; of Dr. G. F. Shady, editor of the Medical Record of New York; of Dr. Hill in the name of both Johns Hopkins Hospital and of the Massachusetts board of health; of Drs. Blunt and Norton of the Texas board of health; of the Colorado board of health and finally of the California state board of health (of June, 1900), and Dr. E. S. Pillsbury, professor of pathology and bacteriology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, San Francisco, and one time special pathologist to the state board of health of California, employed by the governor, presumably with the concurrence of the editor of the Pacific Medical Journal. These are the "dishonest" individuals to whom our contemporary refers as "fit subjects for public care." What influence could lead any sane individual, or even the editor of the Pacific Medical Journal, to deny the existence of anything in the face of such evidence? The answer is plain—preference and politics.

As a side light upon this aspect of the case, we find the following on page 604 of our contemporary's issue of August last:

"In contrast to this miserable faking we call attention to the noble, honest, unselfish, courageous and effective course pursued by Governor Gage, the people's friend, and the low schemer's dreadful foe. Were he made of such stuff as that which controls San Francisco, our city and state would now be shut out from the rest of the world, our port closed, our people begging for food, and the bubonic supporters hovering over us like so many vultures. He has been a friend in need and the people of California will not soon forget his services."

On page 610 of the same issue this also occurs:

"Dr. Winslow Anderson, editor and proprietor of this journal, has been the recipient of the distinguished honor from Governor Gage of being appointed surgeon general of the state of California, to serve on the governor's staff with the rank of colonel."

The possibility of personal contact with infected premises and certainly the direct connection between some of these cases would seem to be settled by the fact that the case of Murphy and that of Ham Tan, on July 6th and on October 10th, respectively, occurred in the same house, 767 Clay street, while that of Lea Do Hen of October 5th and of a Chinese girl over whose

burial there was some financial difficulty, and whose case was not reported, came from a cigar factory on Battery street.

In connection with the question of disinterestedness in this matter, an article in the Sacramento Bee (October 7, 1900) is not without point. Under the caption, "Some of the Costs of Suppressing the Plague News," the Bee gives many of the facts connected with the plague in San Francisco.

In conclusion we have only to add that there is one thing in this world that cannot be permanently throttled or suppressed—that is, the truth. Error and misrepresentation may prevail for a time, but "truth is eternal." Believing that we were right, our duty seemed clear, and we have endeavored to perform it. It is perhaps needless to say we shall continue to do it. We sincerely trust that there will never be an epidemic of plague in California. Yet should such occur, or should the now few and scattering cases increase or extend to the interior of the state, then indeed we pity the false prophet of our misguided people, who, heeding the gathering storm of a repentant press and an aroused and incensed people, will surely "flee from the wrath to come."

### FROM CLERK TO PRESIDENT:

Charles M. Hays' Rapid Rise to the Head of a Great Railway.

From the Kansas City Star. Charles M. Hays, who, it was announced lately is to become president of the Southern Pacific railroad system to succeed the late Collis P. Huntington, is well known in Kansas City. While general manager of the Wabash railroad Mr. Hays visited Kansas City frequently and had a wide acquaintance there among merchants and railroad men. He is only 44 years of age, and will be one of the youngest railroad presidents in the country.

Mr. Hays left the Wabash railroad in 1895 to become the general manager of the Grand Trunk railroad with headquarters in Montreal. He was accompanied to Montreal by F. H. McGuigan, who was appointed general superintendent of the Grand Trunk. Prior to that time Mr. McGuigan was division superintendent of the Wabash with headquarters in this city.

Mr. Hays entered railroad service in 1882 as a clerk in the passenger department of the Atlantic & Pacific, now the Frisco road, at St. Louis. In 1877 he was secretary to the general manager of the Missouri Pacific and in 1886 became secretary to the general manager of the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific railroad. The following year he was made assistant general manager of that road and in 1889 was appointed general manager of the Wabash railroad system. Mr. Hays made an excellent record while with the Grand Trunk and was called to London recently and complimented by the directors for his excellent management of the property. The many friends of Mr. Hays here and elsewhere are elated at his call to the presidency of one of the greatest railroad systems in the country.

The salary of Mr. Hays as president of the Southern Pacific railroad will be not less than \$40,000 a year. The system includes lines from San Francisco and through Los Angeles and El Paso to New Orleans. The total mileage of the Pacific and Atlantic divisions of the Southern Pacific system amount to more than 7,300 miles, making it one of the greatest railroad systems in the world.

By industry and ability Mr. Hays has risen from the position of a clerk to the presidency of a great transportation company. No better example could be afforded of the opportunities which this country affords for men of merit. It was only a few years ago that Mr. Hays, as secretary to A. A. Talmage, then general manager of the Wabash railroad, was known by all who were associated with him as "Charlie" Hays. A Kansas City friend of Mr. Hays in speaking of his character, said of him:

"He is a most approachable man, of a social and genial disposition and while with the Wabash railroad was respected and esteemed as a friend by all of his subordinates. He was quick and accurate in his business decisions and understood, including minute details of a railroad, including its construction and operation. His memory was wonderful and he had at his command the terms of every contract made by the Wabash railroad even with small towns along its line. His departure from the Wabash was regretted by all who were associated with him, and his choice as president of the Southern Pacific is not surprising. The Southern Pacific has needed friends and C. M. Hays will attract them. His management of the property is certain to be as great a success as was his dictation of the affairs of the Wabash and Grand Trunk system."

### Tuan the Chief Offender.

Not only the European powers, but the American people will be reassured of the good faith of the Chinese government if Prince Tuan is sentenced to death for his participation in the recent massacre. His high position, and especially the fact that he is the father of a boy who has been chosen as the next emperor, to make his punishment as light as possible; but these are precisely the reasons why the foreigners hold him more guilty than any of his confederates and why they will not be content to trust a government which lets him live while beheading his associates and inferiors. With capital punishment inflicted on Tuan there will be better hope for peace and renewed amity between China and other nations.

### Correct.

The country is not worried half so much about Richard Crocker's assaults upon the dinner pail as it is about his assaults upon an honest ballot-box.

### Too Much to Expect.

"Poetry," said the editor, "is a drug on the market." "Oh, indeed!" exclaimed the poet, hopefully, "am I to infer that you pay drug store prices for it?"

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